

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

02
1. (currently amended) Method for transporting a thin nonwoven material from a pressing roller pair traversed only by the nonwoven material to a second transport device, comprising:
_____ passing only the nonwoven material between a pressing roller pair;
_____ seizing ~~characterized in that the nonwoven material is seized by a partial vacuum which acts against an endless circulating transport element and is held~~ a perforated drum;
_____ holding the nonwoven material by this partial vacuum on the ~~endless circulating transport element~~ perforated drum during the transfer as well as during delivery; and
_____ delivering the nonwoven material from the perforated drum to the second transport device.

Claim 2 (canceled)

3. (currently amended) Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that, during delivery, the nonwoven material is ~~simultaneously processed and cooled at an intrinsic temperature of the nonwoven material.~~

C2
4. (previously presented) Method according to Claim 3, characterized in that the nonwoven material is permeated by cooling air during delivery.

5. (currently amended) Device for delivering a thin, unbonded nonwoven material from a pressing roller pair traversed only by the nonwoven material to a following adjacent roller for further transport, ~~characterized in that the device includes an endless circulating transport element against which a partial vacuum acts from a non-transporting side~~ comprising:

a pressing roller pair having a roller nip through which only the nonwoven material passes;

an adjacent roller downstream of the pressing roller pair for further transport of the nonwoven material; and

a perforated drum provided between the pressing roller pair and the adjacent roller, the perforated drum having an inner cover provided on a top side of the perforated drum and otherwise being subject to a partial vacuum, the inner cover beginning around a delivery line of the nonwoven material from the pressing roller pair and ending around a delivery line of the nonwoven material to the adjacent roller, and the perforated drum being engaged with the roller nip of the pressing roller pair such that the nonwoven material partially encircles a lower roller of the pressing roller pair.

6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) Device according to Claim 5, characterized in that the

transport element is designed as a perforated drum ~~subjected to a suction draft and is~~
supplied, as required, with cooling air.

02
8. (canceled)

9. (canceled)

10. (canceled)

11. (previously presented) Device according to Claim 5, characterized in that the pressing roller pair is a calender roller pair and the adjacent roller is encircled by a following endless conveyor for further processing, and in that the endless circulating transport device is a counter-rotating perforated drum associated with a lower roller of the calender roller pair, in which drum a partial vacuum is generated.

12. (previously presented) Device according to Claim 11, characterized in that cooling air in the form of ambient air is fed to the perforated drum.

13. (currently amended) Device according to Claim 12, characterized in that ~~the perforated drum includes an inner cover on the top side of the perforated drum, the inner cover extending~~ extends more than 180° and ~~ending~~ begins directly above a the delivery line at the calender roller pair and ends directly above a the delivery line at the following adjacent roller.

14. (canceled)

C2 15. (previously presented) Device according to Claim 5, characterized in that the pressing roller pair is a calender roller pair.

16. (previously presented) Device according to Claim 15, characterized in that the calender roller pair does not completely bond the nonwoven material.

17. (previously presented) Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the pressing roller pair is a calender roller pair.

18. (currently amended) Method according to Claim 17, characterized in that the nonwoven material is not completely bonded by the calender roller pair.
